

## FEMA REGION V

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### *short notes on planning #20*

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#### COMMUNITIES WITH AN OLD OR OUTDATED FLOOD MAP

One of the major risks faced by most communities is flooding. In most cases, communities use the Food Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and/or the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM) as a tool for completing their hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA). We have received questions regarding whether communities should use older maps for the HIRA. The decision whether to use the old or outdated maps will be done on a case-by-case basis and should be based on a number of factors.

Just because a map has been prepared or updated in the past several years doesn't mean it is inaccurate. If little or no development has taken place in the community since the maps were prepared, they are probably still accurate. In this case your community should use them when preparing your HIRA.

If the FIRM or FBFM is in the process of being revised, has gone through the appeals period, but has not been officially revised, it is considered **BEST AVAILABLE DATA**. In this case, you can use the map under revision for your HIRA.

If your community has completed its own version of the FIRM or FBFM, it can only be used for the HIRA if it is more restrictive than the FEMA maps.

In all other cases, you must use the existing FIRM and FBFM for your HIRA.